

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 002942

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/05/2015

TAGS: [KHDP](#) [MASS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [IS](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PEACE

REF: AMMAN 1123

Classified By: CDA David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 5.

-----  
Summary  
-----

[1](#)2. (C) Israeli assistance in the removal of mines laid by Israel in the Wadi Araba region of Jordan would highlight the humanitarian and economic benefits of the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty. End Summary.

-----  
Israeli Land Mines in Jordan  
-----

[1](#)3. (U) There are approximately 70,000 mines laid by the Israeli military on lands that reverted to Jordanian control after the signing of Jordan's 1994 peace agreement with Israel. Most of these mines are in the Wadi Araba and Aqaba areas in southern Jordan. A cooperative humanitarian demining effort between the two countries could provide a visible example of the tangible benefits resulting from Jordan's strategic decision for peace. The symbolism of landmine removal along the shared border and the prevention of civilian casualties would serve both sides well. Cooperative demining would also open the Wadi Araba and Aqaba areas to further touristic and agricultural development.

[1](#)4. (C) As reftel described, the removal of Israeli landmines on Jordanian soil carries a greater risk of casualties if attempted without Israeli assistance. It is always safer for a country to remove its own mines since the military force that laid them has familiarity with the type of devices used, the pattern of mines within a minefield, and the techniques used for laying the mines. Additionally, in order to remove the Israeli mines, the Jordanian Royal Engineering Corps (REC), the military unit charged with demining, would require extensive retraining that would drain resources from other demining efforts.

-----  
Comment and Action Request  
-----

[1](#)5. (C) Post recommends encouraging the GOI to respond favorably to a Jordanian request for assistance in demining the Wadi Araba and Aqaba regions, both to counter the dangers in removing Israeli mines and to help showcase the benefits of Arab cooperation with Israel. It is in our strong interest to encourage practical, cross-border Israeli-Jordanian cooperation, particularly in the wake of the Sharm summit and the return of a Jordanian ambassador to Israel, as a means to demonstrate the humanitarian and economic advantages of normalized relations. Along with engagement of the GOI, a relatively modest U.S. contribution of funds for spare parts for Jordan's existing de-mining equipment could help facilitate a joint landmine removal effort. Post would appreciate Department's reaction.

[1](#)6. (C) Comment continued: The proposed demining would contribute to the reinvigoration of the Jordan Rift Valley Joint Master Plan (JRVJMP) that provided an integrated vision of the economic development of the Jordan Rift Valley, including a wide variety of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli projects across and along the border. JRVJMP was part of the trilateral U.S.-Jordan-Israel Joint Economic Committee now in the process of being revived. End Comment.

HALE